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Epping Rural District Council

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

including the Report of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the year ending December 31st, 1946.

Epping Rural District Council



To the Chairman and Members of the
Epping Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report for 1946, on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness to Dr. Roy Evans, my predecessor, for supplying me with much of the information required for the completion of this report.

I know that he would wish me to thank the staff of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation, and the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year.

H. FRANKS, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., B.Hy.,

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1947.

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Epping Rural District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1946

Chairman: Councillor H. B. Kemsley.

Members:

Councillor	A. Barratt	Councillor	T. L. Hickling
„	Mrs. K. M. E. Bell	„	Mrs. H. E. Howard
„	F. Blatch	„	W. M. B. Newcomb
„	E. V. Boram	„	Mrs. E. A. Newton
„	C. H. Bradshaw	„	J. Padfield
„	B. Copeland	„	R. J. Padfield
„	K. de Maus	„	J. W. Stevens
„	Rev. Canon Fisher	„	Mrs. J. R. Swire
„	J. M. D. Gray	„	G. Tucker

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. R. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

Mr. H. J. HEELEY, Sanitary Inspector's Examination Board.
Royal Sanitary Institute (Meat and other
Foods) Certificate.
Practical Sanitary Science, London.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

Mr. T. E. DAVIES, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspector's Examination Joint Board.
(From March, 1946.)

Inspector for Survey of Rural Housing:

Mr. T. C. OATES, Municipal and County Building Inspectors
Certificate.

Clerks:

Miss A. E. A. ROTHWELL.

Miss P. FARMER (from October, 1946).

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA

Area (in acres)	34,855
Population	16,280
Number of inhabited houses	5,012
Rateable value	£96,436
Sum represented by a penny rate	£380

The rate in the pound of the general rate was 16s. 3d.

VITAL STATISTICS

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births:	Legitimate	145	135	280
	Illegitimate	3	9	12
				TOTAL: 292

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population 17.9

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Still Births:	Legitimate	8	3	11
	Illegitimate	0	1	1
				TOTAL: 12

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 39.4

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths	96	89	185	
			(Registrar General's figures)	

Death rate per 1,000 population... 11.4

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	4	2	6	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
				TOTAL: 6

Death rate of infants under 1 year (per 1,000 live births) 20.5

Maternal Deaths:

Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis ... ...	...	...	0
Other maternal causes ... ...	...	...	1
			TOTAL: 1

Maternal death rate (per 1,000 total births) 3.3
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under age 2 years 1

**CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR
GENERAL FOR THE YEAR 1946**

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system		4	0	4
Syphilitic Diseases	...	1	0	1
Cancer (all forms)	...	17	15	32
Diabetes	...	0	2	2
Intracranial vascular lesions	...	10	7	17
Heart Disease	...	28	36	64
Other Disease of Circulatory system		3	5	8
Bronchitis	...	6	3	9
Pneumonia	...	2	2	4
Other Respiratory Diseases		0	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	0	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	4	3	7
Nephritis	...	4	4	8
Maternal Deaths (non-sepsis)		0	1	1
Premature Births	...	1	0	1
Congenital malformations		—		
Birth injuries	...	3	2	5
Infantile Diseases	...	—		
Road Traffic Accidents		3	1	4
Other violent causes		0	1	1
All other causes	...	10	5	15
	TOTAL:	96	89	185
		—	—	—

Table of Comparative Birth Rates and Death Rates in the year 1946 (Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns). Rates per 1,000 population.

		England and Wales	126 County Bor- oughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adm. County	Epping R.D.C.
Still Births	...	0.53	0.67	0.59	?	0.74
Live Births	...	19.1	22.2	21.3	21.0	17.9
Deaths: All causes		11.5	12.7	11.7	12.7	11.4

Trends of Birth and Death Rates over the past 5 years.

	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Birth rate per 1,000 population ...	16.3	11.5	17.2	16.9	17.9
Still births per 1,000 total births...	24.0	31.5	31.0	18.8	39.4
Death rate per 1,000 population ...	12.4	10.2	11.7	14.5	11.4
Illegitimate birth rate % of total births	... ...	... ...	5.5	7.7	6.2
				6.8	4.3

Comments on Vital Statistics for 1946.

(1) All figures have been corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfers—i.e., they refer to persons who normally reside in the district, and they include all births and deaths amongst them wherever occurring.

(2) The birth rate shows an increase over recent years, but is lower than that of urban areas and the country as a whole. The illegitimate birth rate has fallen considerably, and the death rate also is reduced. These tendencies seem to indicate a gradual return to more normal social conditions, but on this basis the marked increase in still-births is difficult to understand, unless, as may be, it indicates an increasing difficulty in obtaining adequate ante-natal supervision in the more remote areas.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

- (a) **Public Health Officers** of the Local Authority (see page 3).
- (b) **Laboratory Facilities.** A Ministry of Health Laboratory operated at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping. Milk, water and ice cream samples are examined at the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66, Queen Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
- (c) **Hospitals.** St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping.
Waltham Joint Isolation Hospital (for infectious cases only).
Epping Cottage Hospital.
- (d) **Child Welfare.** The Welfare Authority is the Essex County Council. Clinics are held at the following times and places:—
 - (1) EPPING: The Combined Treatment Centre, Regent Road, Epping.
Dressing Clinic every school morning, 9—9.30 a.m.

Every Monday morning and afternoon:

Dental and orthopaedic clinics (by appointment only). Appointments arranged at School Clinic or from School Medical Inspections.

Every Tuesday morning. Tuberculosis Dispensary only.

(N.B. Many children who have to be seen at the dispensary are not tuberculosis. May be only being checked up.)

Tuesday afternoons. Dental Clinic (by appointment only). Speech Therapy Clinic (by appointment only).

Wednesday mornings. Dental Clinic (by appointment only).

(Twice a month gas clinic, by appointment only.)

Orthopaedic clinic (by appointment only).

Wednesday afternoons. 1.30 p.m., 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.

Eye Clinic (by appointment only).

Orthopaedic Clinic (by appointment only).

Dental Clinic (by appointment only).

Thursday mornings. School Clinic, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

*Diphtheria Immunisation at 11.30 a.m.

Orthopaedic Clinic (by appointment only).

Dental Clinic (by appointment only).

Thursday afternoons. Dental Clinic (by appointment only). Child Welfare Clinic (babies).

Friday mornings. Dental Clinic (by appointment only).

Orthopaedic Clinic (by appointment only).

Friday afternoons. 2—3 p.m. Dental Inspection. No appointment necessary. Any child with or without parent can be seen by dentist on this day.

Orthopaedic Clinic (by appointment only).

(2) HARLOW:	The Women's Institute Club Room	*2nd Friday in the month, 2.30 p.m.
(3) HARLOW COMMON:	The Old School Room	*1st Monday in the month, 2.30 p.m.
(4) MATCHING TYE:	The Women's Institute	*3rd Friday in the month, 2.30 p.m.
(5) SHEERING:	The Parish Room	*1st Friday in the month, 2.30 p.m.
(6) THEYDON BOIS:	The Sorrell Rooms	*1st & 3rd Fridays in the month, 3.30 p.m.
(7) NETTESWELL:	The Women's Institute Hall	*4th Thursday in the month, 2.30 p.m.

(8) PARNDON:	The Parish Rooms, Gt. Parndon	*4th Tuesday in the month, 2.30 p.m.
(9) ROYDON	The Community Centre	*2nd Thursday in the month, 2.30 p.m.
(10) NAZEING:	The Presbyterian Settlement Hall	*1st Tuesday in the month, 2 p.m.

* Diphtheria Immunisation is available free of charge at the above clinics, and also, under the Rural District Council's Scheme, at any Doctor's surgery.

Home visiting is carried out by the County Council's Health Visitors in the area.

(e) **School Medical Service.** The Education Authority is the Essex County Council. School nurses inspect the children regularly, and there is a medical inspection at each school not less than once a year.

(f) **Tuberculosis Service.** Tuberculosis Dispensary of the Essex County Council at the Combined Treatment Centre, Regent Road, Epping—every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

During the year a Care Association was set up for an area covering the Chigwell, Epping, Waltham Abbey and Ongar districts. The Association assists cases awaiting admission to sanatorium in various ways and arranges for the admission of child contacts to convalescent homes. It concerns itself also with the after care of patients by assistance in obtaining materials for occupational therapy and whenever possible, suitable employment for those fit for work. The Association is supported by voluntary contributions and receives also a grant from the County Council.

The Honorary Secretary is Mr. A. J. Edwards, 37, Woodland Road, Loughton.

(g) District Nurses employed by the Epping District Nursing Association, and Midwives employed by the Essex County Council, serve the area.

REPORT of the CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR in respect of Infestation and Water Supplies.

Infestation.

No infestation came to the notice of the Department during the year.

Water Supplies.

The water undertakers for the whole of the above are the Herts and Essex Waterworks Company Limited, the water being derived from wells, one at Sawbridgeworth and one at Roydon, both approximately 200 feet deep.

The quality of the water, although extremely hard, is satisfactory both from a chemical and bacteriological point of view. Copies of Analyst's reports are appended herewith. The Company has undertaken to reduce the hardness to $12\frac{1}{2}$ degrees according to Clark's Scale in accordance with the Herts and Essex Water Act, 1944.

The quantity supplied is, generally, sufficient. There are difficulties however during the drought period in obtaining supplies in the Barn Hill area at Roydon and in the Parish of Nazeing.

During the year the Company laid a 4-in. water main along Reeves Lane at Roydon in order to improve the supply; this, however, has not been wholly satisfactory. It is the intention of the Water Company to lay another 6-in. main from Tylers Cross, Roydon, to Hoe Lane, Nazeing.

The shortage of water during the time above stated is accentuated by the large use of water in the greenhouses in the Roydon and Nazeing Parishes and during the times, which are definite at certain periods during the day, the shortage is much more serious.

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action and it having a high standard of purity no action has been taken in respect of any form of contamination.

Of the dwelling-houses 93 per cent. derive their water direct from the mains in the house, 6 per cent. by means of standpipe, and the remainder from well supply. Particulars relating to this supply to the various Parishes are as follows:—

Parish.	Total No. of houses.	Main supply.	Stand- pipe.
Sheering	301	284
Harlow	1197	1159
Parndon	188	160

Theydon Bois	...	743	743	0
Theydon Garnon	...	70	58	12
Latton	...	56	39	5
North Weald	...	538	530	8
Roydon	...	589	500	59
Nazeing	...	672	640	12
Epping Upland	...	190	165	25
Magdalen Laver	...	68	57	11
Netteswell	...	235	209	26
Matching	...	165	110	21
		—	—	—
		5012	4654	250
		—	—	—

The Schemes for extending the water mains are now before the Ministry with the view to obtaining Grants under the provisions of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, in the following Parishes: from Matching Tye to Newman's End, Matching, from Cock Green Parndon, to the School, Great Parndon, and from Dobbs Weir, Reydon, to Carthagena Lock, Nazeing.

Analyst's Reports of Specimen Samples are as follows:—

Before Treatment—Bacteriological Examination.

Date: 29.4.46. 3.20 p.m.

Taken from: Aerating Tank, Roydon Pumping Station.

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
Number of "Bacteria" growing on Agar per c.c. or ml in ...	0	0	0
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	...	...	Absent 100 c.c.
Bact. Coli	...	...	Absent 100 c.c.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	...	...	Absent 100 c.c.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and conforms to the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) ROY C. HOATHER.

After Treatment—Bacteriological Examination.

Date: 29.5.46. 7.0 p.m.

Taken from: Standpipe, Lilac Cottage, Matching Green.

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
Number of "Bacteria" growing on Agar per c.c. or ml in ...	0	3	280

Presumptive Coliform Reaction				Absent	100 c.c.
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	...	...	...	Absent	100 c.c.
Bact. Coli	...	...	...	Absent	100 c.c.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	...	...	...	Absent	100 c.c.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of satisfactory bacterial purity, consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) ROY C. HOATHER.

Date: 18.3.46. 4.20 p.m.

Taken from: Aerating Fountain, Sawbridgeworth Pumping Station.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000

Appearance: Slight opalescence settling to a film deposit consisting of iron-oxide.

Turbidity: 5 parts per million, Silica scale.

Colour: Normal. Odour: Nil.

Reaction pH: Neutral 7.1. Free Carbonic Acid 3.5.

Electric Conductivity at 20°C 660.

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate 31.0.

Total Solids, 180°C 44.0.

Chlorine in Chlorides 2.5. Nitrites: Less than 0.001.

Nitrogen in Nitrates 0.00.

Hardness: Permanent 7.0.

Temporary 29.0

Total 36.0.

Metals: Total iron: 0.030. In solution 0.015. Other metals absent.
'Free chlorine reaction' Absent.

Free Ammonia: 0.021. Ammoniacal Nitrogen —

Albuminoid Ammonia: 0.0000. Albuminoid Nitrogen —

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C: 0.005.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.

On Agar in 3 days at 20°C	1
1 day at 37°C	0
2 days at 37°C	0

Bacillus Coli Absent in 100 c.c.

Bacillus Welchii Absent in 100 c.c.

(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)

Report: This sample has slight opalescence due to the presence of a trace of iron but it is not unduly turbid. The water is neutral in reaction, very hard in character but contains no excess of

salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes apart from the objection that it is not quite clear and bright in appearance.

(Signed) GORDON MILES, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
for Drs. Beale and Suckling.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new works of sewerage and sewage disposal, nor any important additions to existing plant, took place during the year.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	22	57	3	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies—				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order 1938	59	37	2	0
(b) Others ...	0	0	0	0
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	81	94	5	0
	—	—	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Number of cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	20	20	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	2	1	0	1	0
(b) unsuitable or defec- tive	1	0	0	0	0
(c) not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences (not in- cluding relating to Homework) ...	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	24	21	0	1	0
	—	—	—	—	—

3. OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111).

There were 9 outworkers registered under employment in the district (August 1946), all of whom were engaged in the making, etc., of wearing apparel. There were no cases of default in supplying lists to the Council, and no instances of work in unwholesome premises.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

YEAR 1946

		Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Whooping Cough ...	...	62	0	0
Measles ...	...	103	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	...	27	21	0
Meningitis ...	...	1	1	0
Dysentery ...	...	2	2	0
Erysipelas ...	...	1	1	0
Typhoid Fever...	...	1	1	0

Notification of Infectious Disease during the past 5 years

		1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Scarlet Fever	...	30	56	19	23	27
Diphtheria	...	3	0	0	2	0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid		1	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia	...	24	42	17	12	0
Erysipelas	...	0	5	3	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	1	2	0	0
Measles	...	9	298	115	274	103
Whooping Cough	...	50	5	101	23	62
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis		1	0	0	1	1
Dysentery	...	0	1	3	10	2
Infective Hepatitis	...	0	8	28	12	0

Comparative Tables of Infectious Disease Notification and

Death Rates per 1,000 of the population in 1946

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

1. Notifications per 1,000 population.

		England and Wales	126 County Bor- oughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London County Adm.	Epping R.D.C.
Typhoid Fever	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.06
Paratyphoid Fever	...	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	...	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42	1.65
Cerebro-spinal Fever		0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.06
Whooping Cough	...	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22	3.81
Diphtheria	...	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24	0.00
Erysipelas	...	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27	0.06
Smallpox	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	...	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35	6.33
Pneumonia	...	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75	0.00

1. Deaths per 1,000 population.

		England and Wales	126 County Bor- oughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London County Adm.	Epping R.D.C.
Typhoid and Paraty-						
phoid	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Influenza	...	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.00
Smallpox	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	...	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00

Comments on Infectious Disease Incidence.

It will be noted that there are considerable fluctuations in the number of notifications received from year to year, and in different parts of the country, particularly in the case of measles and whooping cough. This is not an unusual finding in these diseases, and is due to the effect of an outbreak conferring a partial immunity among the children of the affected locality during the succeeding year or more.

Tuberculosis.

17 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 8 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, and there were 4 deaths from this disease. The figures for the previous year (1945) were 18, 12 and 2 respectively.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

410 children under the age of 15 completed a course of immunisation during the year. Approximately half of these were treated by their own doctors free of charge, under the Council's scheme, and the remainder were immunised at the Child Welfare Clinics. Since the introduction of the scheme, it is estimated that 2,165 out of an estimated population in the district of 3,304 children between the ages of 1 and 15 had completed immunisation (65.5%).

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